

South Island Sampler

Destinations: Christchurch, Queenstown

Your Itinerary Includes:

- Internal coach class air in New Zealand
- Round trip airport transfers OR car rental
- 2 nights Christchurch
- 3 nights Queenstown
- Milford Sound full day tour
- Rental car OR coach transfers between major cities
- 1 lunch

Day-By-Day Itinerary

Day 1 fly from USA city to Auckland

Please note international air from the USA has not been included in the package price.

Day 2 You cross the International Date Line to Auckland

The International Date Line is an imaginary line on the earth's surface that approximately coincides with the 180th meridian (LONGITUDE), and separates the calendar date. Traveling east across the line takes the traveler back one day; traveling west, takes the traveler forward one day.

Day 3 arrive in Christchurch

You will be met and transferred to your accommodation, or if you choose the rental car option, you will pick up your vehicle and self drive to your hotel.

Christchurch, the city of parks and gardens, trees and beauty, is also buzzing with street life. Wine bars, street cafes and exciting entertainments give the central city vitality unique to New Zealand.

Day 4 Christchurch

Christchurch is the largest city on New Zealand's South Island and is known as New Zealand's "Garden City". Don't miss the Botanic Gardens located along the banks of the placid River Avon in the middle of Hagley Park. This is just a short walk from downtown. While in that area, you should also visit the McDougal Art Gallery and Museum. For a romantic interlude, try punting on the Avon.

You'll discover first hand why Christchurch is known as the 'Garden City' and considered one of the most English style cities outside of England. Travel to the picturesque seaside village of Sumner and enjoy the breathtaking views from the Port Hills overlooking Lyttelton Harbour, over Christchurch and the Canterbury Plains to the Southern Alps. Also learn about Christchurch's fascinating history from the pioneering days through to modern day time and how Christchurch is recovering from the devastating February 22 earthquake which has now become a major event in New Zealand's history.

On tour you will view some of the areas affected by the earthquakes, see how Christchurch is preserving some of its iconic heritage buildings and hear about the exciting vision to rebuild and restore the inner city.

Day 5 Coach from Christchurch to Queenstown via Mt. Cook.

Depart Christchurch and cross the Canterbury Plains, before arriving at Lake Tekapo. Visit the church of the good shepherd then continue to Mount Cook. There is time for lunch, available at The Hermitage Mount Cook, plus time for an optional helicopter flight (own expense). Continue South, cross the Lindis Pass to arrive Queenstown at around 6.00pm.

If you choose the self-drive option, you will drive from Christchurch to Queenstown at your own pace.

Nestled beside the deep blue waters of Lake Wakatipu, at the foot of the Remarkables Mountain Range, Queenstown is a year round resort, where you can be as active as you want, or just leisurely enjoy the magnificent scenery.

Day 6 Milford Sound Tour

An early start as you leave your hotel and coach through some of the most beautiful countryside in New Zealand. On arrival at Milford Sound, board the vessel for a leisurely cruise along the sound to the Tasman Sea. The vessel stops at various points and plenty of time is available to view waterfalls, rainforests, mountains and seals. You may even see dolphins frolic alongside the boat. A buffet lunch is included during the cruise.

Day 7, At leisure, Queenstown

At your leisure to explore the adventure capital of New Zealand. Set between the towering Remarkable Ranges and the bottomless Lake Wakitipu, Queenstown has it all – bungee jumping, jet boating, rafting, amazing scenic helicopter flights. You may wish to visit Milford or Doubtful Sound or the old gold mining town of Arrowtown.

Day 8 Fly Queenstown to USA (Via Auckland)

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Auckland. On arrival, make your way to the international terminal for your departure flight to the USA.